

Case 2969

***Bombycilla cedrorum* Vieillot, [1808] and *Troglodytes aedon* Vieillot, [1809] (Aves, Passeriformes): proposed conservation of the specific names**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the specific names of *Bombycilla cedrorum* Vieillot, [1808] for the cedar waxwing (family BOMBYCILLIDAE) and of *Troglodytes aedon* Vieillot, [1809] for the North American house wren (family TROGLODYTIDAE). The names are threatened by the little used senior subjective synonyms *Ampelis americana* and *Sylvia domestica* respectively, both of Wilson (1808).

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Aves; cedar waxwing; North American house wren; *Bombycilla cedrorum*; *Troglodytes aedon*.

1. Wilson (1808, p. 107, pl. 7, fig. 1) described, illustrated and named the cedar waxwing as *Ampelis americana* and (p. 129, pl. 8, fig. 3) the North American house wren as *Sylvia domestica*. He gave the locality of *A. americana* as Philadelphia and other parts of Pennsylvania and Canada, and noted that it was 'also found as far south as Mexico'. (The bird breeds in the northern United States and subarctic Canada and winters from southern Canada to the Greater Antilles and northern South America). The locality of *S. domestica* was given as Pennsylvania. Hellmayr (1935, p. 104) gave the type locality of *A. americana* as Pennsylvania, and Oberholser (1934, p. 87) gave that of *S. domestica* as Philadelphia.

2. Vieillot ([1808], p. 88, pl. 57) described, illustrated and named the cedar waxwing as the new genus and species *Bombycilla cedrorum*, and gave the locality as 'en Amérique depuis le Canada jusqu'au Mexique'. The type locality was equated to eastern North America by the American Ornithologists' Union (A.O.U.) (1931, p. 270) and was further restricted to Pennsylvania by Burleigh (1963, p. 178). Vieillot ([1809], p. 52, pl. 107) also described, illustrated and named the North American house wren as *Troglodytes aedon*. No locality was given. The type locality was given as northeastern North America by Oberholser (1904, p. 201), who later restricted it to New York City (Oberholser, 1934, p. 87). Vieillot ([1809]) included two nominal species (*aedon* and *arundinaceus*) in his new genus *Troglodytes*; Baird (1858, p. 366) designated *aedon* as the type species.

3. The specific name of *Ampelis americana* Wilson was listed as a junior synonym of *Bombycilla cedrorum* Vieillot in standard synonymies (see, for example, Ridgway, 1904, p. 112; Hellmayr, 1935, p. 104) because the latter name was considered to have priority over *americana*. The date of publication of the name *cedrorum* was given by several early authors (for example, A.O.U., 1895, p. 260; Ridgway, 1904, p. 111) as

1807, the date on the title page of vol. 1 of Vieillot's *Histoire naturelle des oiseaux de l'Amerique septentrionale*. Similarly, the date of publication of the name *Troglodytes aedon* Vieillot was believed by Oberholser (1904) and others to be 1807.

4. The date of the part of Vieillot's publication that contained *Bombycilla cedrorum* has been shown to be September 1808 (see, for example, Hellmayr, 1935, p. 104 and Browning & Monroe, 1991, p. 396). Since the precise date in the month is unknown it must be taken as 30 September (Article 21c of the Code). Volume 1 of Wilson's *American Ornithology*, which included *Ampelis americana*, was published before 21 September 1808 (see Faxon, 1901, p. 216; Hunter, 1983). The specific name of *americana* has had very limited usage (see references in Ridgway, 1904, p. 112) and is not in current use. The description and illustration of *americana* Wilson cannot be identified with either the northern or western subspecies of *B. cedrorum*. The name *B. cedrorum* Vieillot, [1808] has been universally used in recent publications (see, for example, Greenway, 1960, p. 371; A.O.U., 1983, p. 581; Godfrey, 1986, p. 440; Sibley & Monroe, 1990, p. 506). We propose that the usage of Vieillot's name *cedrorum* be maintained by the suppression of *americana* Wilson.

5. The name *Troglodytes domesticus* (Wilson, 1808) was listed as a synonym of *T. aedon* Vieillot, '1807' by Ridgway (1904, p. 581), Oberholser (1904, p. 201) and Hellmayr (1934, p. 217), who all believed the name *aedon* to have priority (para. 3 above). Subsequently Oberholser (1934) pointed out that the name *domestica* has priority over *aedon* because Wilson's *American ornithology* was issued in 1808 but the part of Vieillot's *Histoire naturelle des oiseaux de l'Amerique septentrionale* that contained *T. aedon* was not issued until May 1809. Oberholser (1974, pp. 992-993) restated these dates and the priority of *domestica*. Browning and Monroe (1991, p. 396) confirmed the priority of *domestica*.

6. Phillips (1962, p. 345) and Phillips, Marshall & Monson (1964, p. 117) used the name *Troglodytes aedon*, but later Monson & Phillips (1981, p. 126) and Phillips (1986, p. 141) adopted *T. domesticus* for the same species. In contrast, however, the name *Troglodytes domesticus* was used by Oberholser (1934; 1974, pp. 631, 992-993), Aldrich & Bole (1937, p. 113), Sutton & Burleigh (1940, p. 240), Huey (1942, p. 368), Sutton & Pettingill (1943, p. 283), Brandt (1951, p. 677) and Rea (1983, p. 205), some of whom (Aldrich, in Jewett, Taylor, Shaw & Aldrich, 1953, p. 495; Burleigh, 1958, p. 422; 1972, p. 269; Sutton, 1967, p. 406) subsequently adopted *T. aedon* for the taxon. Virtually every major taxonomic compilation has continued the use of *aedon*, including (but not limited to) A.O.U. (1957, p. 406; 1983, p. 531), Miller, Friedmann, Griscom & Moore (1957, p. 161), Paynter (1960, p. 422), Wolters (1980, p. 432), Godfrey (1986, p. 410) and Sibley & Monroe (1990, p. 562). Likewise, dozens of studies of behavior, ecology and physiology by Kendeigh (see, for example, Kendeigh, 1952) and his students, and virtually every other non-taxonomic compilation, have continued the use of *T. aedon* for the species, one of the most well studied birds of North America. We propose that the specific name *domestica* Wilson, 1808 be suppressed to allow the maintenance of the current usage of *T. aedon* Vieillot, [1809].

7. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the following specific names for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy:

- (a) *americana* Wilson, 1808, as published in the binomen *Ampelis americana*;
 (b) *domestica* Wilson, 1808, as published in the binomen *Sylvia domestica*;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the following names:
 (a) *Bombycilla* Vieillot, [1808] (gender: feminine), type species by monotypy *Bombycilla cedrorum* Vieillot, [1808];
 (b) *Troglodytes* Vieillot, [1809] (gender: masculine), type species by subsequent designation by Baird (1858) *Troglodytes aedon* Vieillot, [1809];
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
 (a) *cedrorum* Vieillot, [1808], as published in the binomen *Bombycilla cedrorum* (specific name of the type species of *Bombycilla* Vieillot, [1808]);
 (b) *aedon* Vieillot, [1809], as published in the binomen *Troglodytes aedon* (specific name of the type species of *Troglodytes* Vieillot, [1809]);
- (4) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
 (a) *americana* Wilson, 1808, as published in the binomen *Ampelis americana* and as suppressed in (1)(a) above;
 (b) *domestica* Wilson, 1808, as published in the binomen *Sylvia domestica* and as suppressed in (1)(b) above.

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